

THE DIRT

President's Message

by Penny Claiborne

Happy Fall Y'all,

As I look at the covers of magazines displayed on the racks in the local stores I long for the mountains. I can still smell the campfires as we round Blood Mountain heading up to our cabin in Blairsville, GA. Oh, how I miss that cabin. I have so many memories of my family gathering for Thanksgiving to share wonderful food and plenty of fun and laughter. Our little cabin had a wrap-around porch with beautiful views of the mountain range. While some of us were in the kitchen preparing "the feast" others were outside enjoying the fresh mountain air and the peaceful surroundings.

Well, we sold that cabin about a year and a half ago in order to build our dream house on the shores of Halls Mill Creek here in Mobile, AL. Our plans are to continue to host the family gathering for Thanksgiving Day here at the Swamp House. And although it will be different it will be somewhat the same. We still have a porch to hang out on and beautiful, peaceful scenery to look at. And some days when the clouds are low on the horizon I imagine that they are a mountain range. All we need is a fire pit to recreate that wonderful smell.

As I write this we are beginning to see a few signs of fall. It's not quite what other cities north of us get but it's enough to witness the beauty of the season in small ways. Sure we do not get masses of vibrant reds, oranges and yellows that are pictured in Southern Living magazine but we do get reds, oranges and yellows in our landscapes. Crepe Myrtle trees have beautifully colored leaves that I have been collecting, and as I toured Bellingrath Gardens last week I ran across a few bright yellow leaves from a ginkgo tree. Then there are the maple and Bradford pear trees that will be turning colors as soon as we get a good cold front - that is, if they don't all fall off the trees first. Even the browns in the marsh across the water have a simple beauty to them.

It is this time of year that we may look out into our gardens and feel like something is missing. Most of the perennials have died back and the flowering shrubs are busy setting their buds for the spring but that does not provide for much color, with the exception of camellias. Everyone should have a few of these in their garden! Evergreens are another must have for winter garden fillers. Not only are evergreens good for color they also provide wonderful texture and scent. Right now as the pine trees are dropping their needles the smell fills the air. I love the smell of pine! It is a reminder that the holidays are now upon us and Christmas is just around the corner.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving full of family, laughter, memories, good food & God's blessings!

Penny

November 2014

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov. 3,—Lunch and Learn
- Nov. 4,—Board Meeting
- Nov. 5,—2014 Class Graduation
- Nov. 6,—Member Meeting
- Dec. 1-4,—Greenery Sale Workshop
- Dec. 5,6,—Greenery Sale
- Dec. 7,—Awards Banquet

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational outreach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Chronicles by Nancy Adams

Native Mobilians and those who have been around for a while thought we knew a lot about **Bellingrath Gardens**. But after listening to **Thomas McGehee's** presentation following the October General Meeting, we will never see it the same. He knows the stories and the people so well, and made such a great presentation, it was as if he had known the Bellingraths personally. As Museum Director of the Gardens and Home, he oversees the 15 room home, its collection of original arts and antiques, and the Delchamps collection of Boehm Porcelain. It was especially interesting to see how the stories of Coca Cola Bottling Company and Bellingrath Gardens are interwoven. Mr. McGehee had a fascinating story to tell, and he told it well.

Please Note: The November General Meeting will be held at the Bean and Bistro, 249 Greeno Road South, Fairhope, Alabama, on Thursday, November 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Reservations are needed. For more information see page 6 in this newsletter.

Mobile County Master Gardeners will give coloring books and crayons to children at **Bellingrath Night**, October 25.

The annual **Christmas Greenery Sale** will coincide with MBG's annual Poinsettia sale at Mobile Botanical Gardens on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6. Preparations for the sale will begin on the Monday before, and many hands will be needed throughout the week. **Martha Rauch** will be accepting a variety of plant materials and small pine cones to be used for making wreaths, mailbox toppers, centerpieces, swags, and other Christmas decorations. Cuttings should be as fresh as possible and delivered to the Marketplace on Monday, December 1, if possible. If you have questions about the cuttings to bring, contact Martha. In addition to plant materials, we will need large shopping bags and 5 gallon buckets of any kind that will hold water. Make sure your name is on the bucket if you want them returned.

Orders for **Christmas wreaths** to be picked up at the Greenery Sale should be in by **November 19**. **Contact Brenda Bolton** to order yours in advance. **Paper whites will also be sold at the Greenery Sale**. If you have a sunny place in your home to grow the paper whites now, please let **Glenda Eady** know. Barbara McMullen will chair the December 7, Annual Awards Banquet. Betsy Yeager will be her co-chair. Of course volunteers will be needed.

Hang on, folks...the holiday season is just around the corner!

From the Editor



I know you are receiving this month's newsletter in late October, but like all other Christmas sales we wanted to get a jump on the competition. The annual Greenery Sale is already in full swing. Orders are being taken, with a November 19 deadline. Your help is needed to make this year another huge success. The education and scholarship funds depend on this yearly fundraiser. All members are needed to BUY and SELL our wreaths and beautiful fresh greenery creations. Our volunteer elves will once again work their magic and create gorgeous decorations for your mailbox, table, mantle, door or holiday gift giving. Your freshly cut greenery can be delivered to the MBG Marketplace Monday, Dec. 1, and volunteers are needed every day through the sale Friday, and Saturday Dec. 5 and 6. Contact: **Brenda Bolton or Peggy Wright to volunteer. Interns are welcome.**

Greenery Sale Order Form: www.aces.edu/Mobile/mg

Master Gardener of the Month - Jan Tanner

By Brenda Bolton

This is my first MGOM interview conducted between out-takes while the honoree barks directions in the car, and like most events swirling around Jan Tanner, it was a wild ride: “Hey, Jan, I need to do the interview for MGOM – are you busy?” Pause. “Well, I’m in the car with Ken headed out to Dauphin Island...but I can make short work of this...<Insert story of life here>”...“Wow, that’s a really great story! Uh, who’s Ken?” “We have to find Hwy 90...”...“Huh? Oh, well, how many grandkids do you have now?” “Five and a half; that’s it I think...” That’s it - six is enough, huh?” ...”No...No, not you, Yes to you, Right here, turnCan you believe this man does this?...One due in May...Can I call you back?”

So, yeah, I took a little fictional license there, but not much. But I got enough to add to the already rich tapestry that is our Jan Tanner, selected for this month’s Master Gardener of the Month because of her many involvements since she came into the MG program in 2013, her recent initiative for our DREAM Garden, and her ready willingness to serve on our Board next year. Jan was first engaged with Master Gardeners through her Student Garden initiative when teaching, when she was helped by Master Gardeners. (Outreach works and comes back to us!) When I asked what goals she envisions for our program, we had a long discussion about native plants and sustainability education.

Jan is a native Mobilian who, unlike most of us, was raised by a mother who hated gardening and found not much use for flowers of any kind. This was apparently the perfect recipe for producing a garden lover. Don’t let those gorgeous dimples and mountain-mist blue eyes fool you. Jan is at heart an imp. And I suspect a contrary imp. So tell her something can’t be done, shouldn’t be done, or doesn’t need to be done, if you want it to get done. Jan owes her love of gardening to the family housekeeper/Nanny, Martha, who raised both her and those flowers her mother hated in their back yard. It takes a village.

Jan has four children, including Stacy and Zach whom I don’t know but I’m sure I would love, and two of the loveliest and smartest daughters you’ll ever want to meet, Erin and Megan, whom I do know, and in May will have six grandchildren.

If I had asked each of you to list qualities to describe Jan, the list would include generous, humorous, warm and caring, but at the top of the list would be enthusiasm followed closely by boundless energy. And it’s a good thing if you’ve ever seen her property, because all of that energy has to be shared among family, master gardening, and the ongoing landscaping project at her own home, where she has undertaken to turn a lovely, rolling, naturalized property on Wildwood (how perfect is that?) into the Eden she has pictured in her head to enjoy with husband Randy. I am certain that when completed, Jan’s own garden would make her Martha proud and will instill in at least one of those grandchildren a similar love of dirt. And Ken, by the way, is the landscaper.



Jan Tanner and Brenda Bolton

Lunch and Learn

A "First Mondays" program presented by Mobile County Master Gardeners,
a program of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Monday, November 3, 2014

Noon to 1 pm

Where: *Jon Archer Center, 1070 Schillinger Road N., Mobile, AL 36608*

Bring a friend and a lunch. Free. Drinks are provided.

For more information: *251-574-8445 or www.aces.edu/Mobile/mg*

Presenter: *Mary Derrick, Residential Horticulture Extension Agent
UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension*

Topic: *Growing Citrus in the Home Garden*



Mary Derrick

November Meeting

On November 6th we will be conducting our monthly meeting in Fairhope. We will meet at 9:30 at The Bean & Bistro for a continental breakfast and business meeting. Then we will be going over to the Fairhope Public Works Dept. greenhouse. Jennifer Fidler will give a tour and talk about "Planning Fairhope's Seasonal Plantings". This event is limited to 60 participants and is FOR MASTER GARDENERS ONLY. It is necessary to make a reservation and pay in advance for this event. The cost is \$10.

The Bean & Bistro is owned by Terri Days (Mary Ann Days daughter) and is located at 249 Greeno Rd. Fairhope, AL 36532. She will be serving a delicious continental breakfast consisting of:

3 kinds of crustless quiche:

Fiesta Huevos, Greek Vegetarian & Good Old Conecuh Sausage & Cheese

Creamy Gouda Grits

Mini bagels w/Orange Cayanne, Sun Dried Tomato & Blue Cheese, and plain cream cheeses

Mini Muffin & Raspberry Bar Bites

Fresh Fruit

Orange & Cranberry Juices

Organic Costa Rican coffee

The Fairhope Public Works Dept. is located at 555 S. Section St. in Fairhope.

Please RSVP to Susan Morrison at smorrisonmg@gmail.com and send your payment to her at:

12915 Dauphin Island Pkwy.

Coden, AL 36523

Recording Hours & Reach for the Stars

Genie Schneider, Volunteer Hours Coordinator

2014 is nearing the end and its time to make sure you get your hours posted. The good thing about recording your hours on line is you do not have to fill out the Year End Summary which was required in past years. When you post your hours all the information needed is complete. We now have everyone registered and would like to see everyone entering their hours online.

Also, it is important for your hours to be posted online by January 11, 2015. Your hours are needed so you may be included in the Reach for the Stars Program.

The Reach for the Stars Program is to recognize Master Gardeners who assist the Extension System in educating and improving our communities and to encourage Master Gardeners to keep records and report volunteer hours. Recorded hours are utilized in justifying the Master Gardener program.

The hours are lifetime (cumulative) from the time you came into the Master Gardener program.



Bronze Star is for 100-299 service hours,



Silver Star for 300-499 service hours.



Gold Star for 500-999 service hours..

A Gold Name Badge is for 1000-1999 service hours, and a Platinum Name Badge for 2000-3999 service hours. There is an Advanced Hours Recognition Program. It is a Silver Star with a "gem stone" which may be attached to the Platinum Badges. Ruby is for 4000-5999 hours, Emerald for 6000-7999 hours, and Diamond for 8000-9999 hours. Then there is a Lifetime Badge for 10,000+ service hours.

The Stars will be presented in the Spring of 2015 at our monthly meeting.

The Gold and Platinum Badges and Advanced Hours Silver Stars will be given at the State Conference in 2015 and awarded at our following general meeting.

Please email or call me if you have any questions.
My email is g.sbschn@gmail.com and my phone is 251 259-8150.

2015 Lunch & Learn Schedule Changes

by Connie Barron

Beginning January 2015, two new changes will be made to the Lunch & Learn schedule:

1. We will be meeting on the **3rd** Monday- instead of the 1st Monday
2. NO December meeting will be scheduled in 2015.

Also, our January meeting **ONLY**, will be held on the 2nd Monday, January 12, 2015. Jon Archer Center will be closed the third Monday due to the Martin Luther King holiday. Our Speaker Schedule will be ready by the December DIRT, so be sure to mark your calendars for the 3rd Monday of the month and join us in 2015 for another great Lunch & Learn series.

Meet the Class of 2014



Peggy Davis

My name is Peggy; I was born in Virginia, and raised in Arkansas. I have lived in Mobile on and off for about forty years. I also lived in Louisiana and Oklahoma. My father was a farmer in Arkansas. I have two sons. My hobbies are gardening and anything that has to do with outside. I also like country music. When I was in Mobile the first time I took dance lessons. My travels took me to Louisiana and Oklahoma. I helped my sister in Oklahoma with my mother. After she died I moved back to Alabama. I always liked Oklahoma. I have two sons and six grandchildren. I am retired and live in Kushla.



Vivian DeVivo

I am Vivian De Vivo, a native of Barranquilla, Colombia who has lived in Mobile for over forty years. I am a graduate of the University of South Alabama where I obtained both my undergraduate and graduate degrees.

I enjoyed a public health career at the Mobile County Health Department spanning 33 years. Initially starting as a public health education and moved into an administrative career path with many different assignments including the management of ambulatory health care delivery systems to becoming the chief operation officer.

Retirement life has been about giving back to the community in which I live. Leisure activities include international travel, reading, hand sewing and digging in the dirt.

I have a married son who lives in Atlanta with his family. My two granddaughters, soon to be 9 and 6, are the joy of my life.



Sherry Gros

Sherry Gros is the mother of four adult children and ten grandchildren. Recently newlywed in April to Arthur Gros Jr. and transplanted here from upstate New York she looks forward to pursuing her Master Gardener Certificate in Mobile, Alabama.

Last summer Mrs. Gros volunteered as Coordinator for the Ogdensburg Community Garden in New York. Before that she volunteered with Save the River in Clayton, New York taking water samples at local beaches monitoring for e-coli during the summer swimming season.

Sherry is currently studying at Ashford University online, has completed the environmental studies major and is finishing her business leadership major for the baccalaureate. She has earned Statements of Accomplishment from John Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health and University of Michigan, Computer Science and Engineering. Mrs. Gros plans to continue her education for a Master Degree in food sustainability. Her hobbies include music and she is a bell ringer in the bell choir at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Mobile.



Jan Ladd

My name is Jan Ladd. I was born in Birmingham, Alabama and raised in Mobile. I went to St. Paul's Episcopal School. My bachelor degree is from Birmingham-Southern College with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Business. I went into office management at McAleer Computer Associates. Allen and I married in 1995. We have three children. I have been a volunteer at UMS-Wright Preparatory school in various ways. On Mondays I volunteer at the USA Mitchell Cancer center. I am a cancer survivor. I enjoy working in the yard, growing fruits and vegetables and yoga.

Time To Pay 2015 Dues

If you have not paid your membership dues for 2015 please do so soon. The dues are \$25.00, the same as last year. \$10.00 of this goes to The Alabama Master Gardener Association. They require our dues be paid to them by December 31, 2014. Therefore I am requesting dues be paid by December 1, 2014. This will give Susan, our treasurer, time to get the payment to the State Association.

2015 Membership Dues - \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

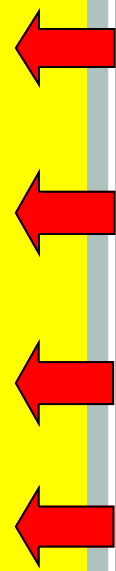
Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make check payable to **Mobile County Master Gardeners** or **MCMG**:

And mail to:

Susan Morrison
12915 Dauphin Island Parkway
Coden, AL 36523



Herb Garden workers, front-Jane Trawick, seated- Ellen McCarron, back left to right-Penny Claiborne, Carol Eskridge, Mary Ann Days, Vivian DeVivo and Joan McCracken



D J Johnson Presents "Pesto" at Semmes Senior Center

Mobile County Master Gardeners

Mobile County Office
1070 Schillinger Rd. N.
Mobile AL 36608-5298
Phone: 251-574-8445
E-mail: aces.edu/Mobile/mg



Officers

President	Penny Claiborne '10
1st Vice President	Regina Gunn '11
2nd vice President	Brenda Bolton '12
Recording Secretary	Nan Costello '10
Corresponding Secretary	Beth Walmsley '11
Treasurer	Susan Morrison '07

Board of Directors

Glenda Eady '09	2014
Greer Wilhelm '10	2014
Jackie Jenkins '11	2015
Joe Pippin '11	2015
Mary Ann Days '11	2016
Carol Eskridge '12	2016
Past President - Connie Barron	'08

Term Expires

Appointees

Newsletter Editor	Alice Marty '07
Volunteer Activity Coordinator	Elisa Baldwin '06
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Genie Schneider '12
2013 Class Representatives	Kathy Sanders and Jan Tanner
ACES Advisor	Ellen Huckabay

Alice Marty will publish the Dirt on the 25th of each month. Articles for inclusion must be received by the 15th of the month and may be submitted to Alice Marty MCdirt@comcast.net or the Extension Office.



Issued by

Ellen Huckabay

Regional Extension Agent

Alabama Cooperative Extension System is committed to affirmative action equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce. Educational programs of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System serve all people regardless of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by applicable law.



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